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MULTIMARKDOWN USER'S GUIDE

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Version 6.0a
Revised 2017-03-15

Introduction

What is Markdown

To understand what MultiMarkdown is, you first should be familiar with Markdown¹. The best description of what Markdown is comes from John Gruber's Markdown web site:

¹ <http://daringfireball.net/projects/markdown/>

Markdown is a text-to-HTML conversion tool for web writers. Markdown allows you to write using an easy-to-read, easy-to-write plain text format, then convert it to structurally valid XHTML (or HTML).

Thus, "Markdown" is two things: (1) a plain text formatting syntax; and (2) a software tool, written in Perl, that converts the plain text formatting to HTML. See the Syntax page for details pertaining to Markdown's formatting syntax. You can try it out, right now, using the online Dingus.

The overriding design goal for Markdown's formatting syntax is to make it as readable as possible. The idea is that a Markdown-formatted document should be publishable as-is, as plain text, without looking like it's been marked up with tags or formatting instructions. While Markdown's syntax has been influenced by several existing text-to-HTML filters, the single biggest source of inspiration for Markdown's syntax is the format of plain text email. — John Gruber²

² <http://daringfireball.net/projects/markdown/>

